



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Hans Wins Hands Down: Foes Can't Bar His Bar

By Jeff Kaliss

Horst "Hans" Grahlman, the owner of what was once the Finnegan's Wake bar on 24th Street, is a publican who believes in limiting his own drinking. Every other month he abstains from alcohol and satisfies himself with coffee or orange juice as he drops in on the several establishments he owns around town. His bars elsewhere are doing well, and his drinking is under control.

But Grahlman has found it's not so easy to control the forces of neighborhood activism here in Noe Valley. He had purchased the former Finnegan's late last year from the building's owner, West Portal lawyer William Murphy. Since the sale took place within 90 days of Finnegan's closing on Labor Day, Grahlman did not have to apply for a special use permit from the city's planning department. He cleaned out the debris, tore out the old cooler, extended the bar toward the north wall and was all set to open in February of this year.

However, the necessary approval from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) was held up pending a formal hearing of opposition to the opening. The ABC received petitions and several letters of protest from some nearby residents and merchants. And when the ABC hearing finally came to pass this summer, personal protests were lodged on behalf of two residents' groups by Fred Methner of the East and West of Castro Club and Miriam Blaustein of the Friends of Noe Valley. They were joined by Tom Crane, owner of Colocarne, who lives on Elizabeth Street behind the bar site, and other neighbors. Grahlman was accompanied by his lawyer, James Reilly.

According to the ABC's official record of the hearing, the "protestants" were concerned that the proposed bar would "result in an overcrowding of [liquor] licenses . . . cause problems due to the limited parking in the area [and] cause



Photo by Joel Abramson

The Muni tracks look lonely when you've been waiting for the J. Our Voice reporter stood here in Dolores Park and found the gap between inbound trains to be greater than the schedule promised. (See Suzanne Scott's story, page 7.)

noise disturbance and police problems." With regard to the first issue, the ABC noted that there were already two other licensed bars (Zorba's and the Cork 'n' Bottle), four beer-and-wine on-sale eating places, and two off-sale general licenses (for sale of bottled liquor) in the 4000 block of 24th Street. (In fact, the Noe Valley area has for years been above the ABC's "threshold" for liquor licenses). However, Grahlman's license would merely replace the license owned by Finnegan's proprietor Tom Frenkel, and thus would not represent an increase.

The ABC document said the department did not have available statistics to correlate crime incidents with the 24th Street location, but that a check with the Mission Police Station (on Valencia near 23rd) determined that the bar site "does not constitute a police problem." As for noise, Crane and his neighbors were advised that "continuing nuisances should be brought to the attention of the Department, who will cooperate with the San Francisco Police Department's Noise

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Jury Awards Blast Victims Big Bucks from PG&E

By Steve Steinberg

Saying he felt "wonderful" after a San Francisco jury told PG&E to pay him over \$600,000 in damages, Tony Marez announced plans last month to rebuild the home he lost to a gas explosion over two years ago.

The jury ruled on Aug. 8 that leaking gas from nearby PG&E mains were responsible for the March 29, 1983 explosion that leveled Marez's home on the corner of Fountain and 25th streets. In a verdict which covered two cases consolidated for the trial, the jury also awarded over \$300,000 in damages to Virginia Giusti, whose adjoining house on 25th Street was destroyed in the same pre-dawn blast.

The explosion damaged numerous other residences in the area and rudely awakened the entire neighborhood. Miraculously, no one was seriously injured in the blast, although the explosion did kill two dogs belonging to the Marez family.

PG&E maintained throughout the trial that leaking gasoline from a car parked in Marez's garage ignited and caused the explosion, despite contradictory reports from the San Francisco Fire Department and independent investigators.

"It doesn't make any sense from a logical standpoint," said Marez' attorney Walter Pyle, referring to PG&E's insistence on the gasoline theory and its refusal to settle out of court. Pyle thought that attorneys for the utility might present some startling new evidence to support their theory, but no fresh revelations emerged during the eight-week trial.

The jury made the awards to cover property and contents loss, and for emotional distress, but declined to grant punitive damages. Attorneys for the two plaintiffs had asked millions of dollars in punitive damages, charging that

PG&E had known about the dilapidated condition of its gas mains in the area but had done nothing to repair or replace them. Many of the pipes were installed in the first decades of the century and were not designed to remain in place this long.

Pyle noted that during the trial, internal PG&E memos surfaced calling for the destruction of documents detrimental to the utility. In his case against the company, Pyle tried to link those memos to the loss of PG&E leak survey maps for 1981-82. Pyle maintained that the maps, had they been available, would have shown conclusively that PG&E knew about leaks in the Fountain Street area and did nothing about them. PG&E said the maps were accidentally destroyed in 1983.

Pyle said his firm may sue the utility company again for "spoliation of evidence."

With the trial behind him, Marez said he will build a Spanish-style home on his old site. He said he doesn't expect to have "five dollars left over" from the jury award after building costs, attorney fees, and court costs. Marez, who owns the Latin American Club bar on 22nd Street, also said he and his family had never fully recovered from the fright of the explosion and that he now suffers from claustrophobia.

Virginia Giusti declined to comment on the verdict. Her daughter, Dana Simmons, did say that the family had not decided whether to rebuild and would probably put off a decision as long as the possibility of court appeals existed.

PG&E has still not heard the last of Tony Marez, who plans to pressure the utility into replacing all the old gas mains in the vicinity of his new home. Said Marez, "They're going to have a wildcat on their hands until they change the mains."



Photo by Irene Kane

Towering over the southern flanks of Noe Valley as it has for a hundred years, the Teresa Bell Mansion on Laidley Street is up for sale at a steep price. (See Larry Beresford's story, page 9.)

Letters

Editor:

What ever happened to "good neighbor Sam" who looked after your home, watered your plants, took in the mail or did any of the nice things neighbors did for one another? Except for the name and a few other changes, she is alive and well and living in Noe Valley.

We are very fortunate to have Vivian Wreden as our neighbor. Our streets are the cleanest in all of Noe Valley, for every day, rain or shine, "Ms. Vivian" and her broom are out making our "little corner of the world" a much nicer place to live.

Sometimes we forget how important having a good neighbor is, and I for one would like to express my thanks to her and others like her who make this world a much better place, because they care.

So if you pass Hill and Sanchez and see the cute little lady with the broom, give her a smile and a wave—that is Ms. Vivian.

D.J. Duggan

Maryann Laib-Adler 1955-1985

Maryann Laib-Adler never let a little problem stand in her way.

After a childhood disease rendered her kidneys useless, she spent much of her youth undergoing frequent dialysis, hospitalization and two kidney transplants.

Turning such would-be setbacks into challenges, Maryann graduated cum laude from San Francisco State University with a degree in health education, moved to Sanchez Street in 1977 and married Seth Adler. She pursued an interest in journalism and health issues, writing articles and conducting research for the Association of Nephrology Nurses, the National Kidney Foundation and the Disability Rights Education Defense Fund. Despite the constraints imposed by her frequent hospitalizations, Maryann and her husband remained active in peace causes and the handicapped rights movement for close to a decade.

In 1982 Maryann and Seth moved to Boston, where she joined the staff of a Quincy, Mass., newspaper. After their daughter Mara Rose was born in 1984, the couple returned to Noe Valley, and the new mother and budding journalist began contributing stories to the *Voice*. Her articles included an examination of Noe Valley's mini-baby boom, a look at a local youth shelter, a profile of musician-carpenter Joady Guthrie, and an examination of current prospects for rent control on 24th Street. Maryann never missed a deadline, and, on at least one occasion, researched and wrote a story from her hospital bed.

After a lifetime of quiet, continuous courage, Maryann's miserable medical luck finally caught up with her. Following her most recent kidney transplant, she had been taking drugs designed to suppress her immune system and thus inhibit rejection of the vital organ. Sev-



eral months ago she contracted a seemingly innocuous salmonella infection, but her weakened system could not fight it and, apparently, it spread. On Aug. 21, at Pacific Medical Center, Maryann Laib-Adler died at the age of 29.

"Maryann faced death many times: two kidney transplants, pneumonia, childbirth," her husband Seth commented. "She had a rare love for life, knowing its precariousness." She also had a gift for selflessness and a devotion to helping others that provided inspiration to everyone she came in contact with. Though we knew her but a short time, we at the *Voice* were deeply touched by Maryann's remarkable warmth, generosity, and loving spirit.

A mass was held for our friend, neighbor and co-worker on Aug. 26 at Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church on Diamond Street. Besides her husband and daughter, Maryann is survived by her mother, Alice Laib, brothers Michael and Duane Laib, her sister Dee Caputo, as well as her husband's parents William and Annie Adler and her sister-in-law, Jody Adler. □

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, artwork and manuscripts. However, all such items must include your name and phone number (names will be withheld from publication if so requested). Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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FOUR BLOCKS OF FUN MUSIC AND EATS

Neighbors Hit the Ceiling Over TV Dish on Roof

By Denise Minor

A satellite dish erected, apparently illegally, on top of the Phone Home telecommunications store at the corner of Clipper and Castro Streets has neighbors up in arms over its effect on views and its potential as a safety hazard.

Clipper Street resident Carole Cowan submitted a petition signed by 100 neighbors last month to Supervisor Richard Hongisto, protesting the dish which Phone Home owner Hugh Martin put up July 20.

In response to the complaints, chief building inspector Bob Kelley's office investigated and found that the structure was erected without the necessary permit.

Martin will not be forced to pull down the dish unless he is denied the permit, said Kelley, but the owner will have to pay a penalty 10 times the normal fee for failing to comply with city code procedure. The code governs size and foundation security of the television satellite receivers, which normally weigh about 200 pounds.

Martin, who also sells the dishes, said his receiver was well within the city's 25-foot height limit and that it was securely fastened to the roof. He also denied that most of his neighbors objected to it.

"We've had only one complaint," he said. "The rest of the people are accepting it. They know these things are coming. They're going to be everywhere really fast."

But such widespread use is just what Cowan and other residents fear. "We don't want to see these things proliferating all over Noe Valley," she said. "It's fine to have one, but not when they block people's views."

Cowan said the 100 signatures on her petition proved that she wasn't the only opponent to Martin's dish. "If he's trying to do business in this neighborhood, he's going about it the wrong way."

She said she would also like more than Martin's assurance that the dish will not fall off his roof.

"Every time I look out my window, I see this big, ugly thing," commented another neighbor, who asked not to be identified. "And they didn't even talk to anyone before putting it up."

But Martin believes that people will have to get used to satellite dishes because they are the television receivers of the future. He also claims he is anxious to see guidelines enacted to regulate the dishes more strictly. "I went to the city about this and they said they really didn't

care," he said.

Martin later rephrased the above statement, saying that the first city official with whom he spoke was a building inspector who came to the site in response to complaints. "The city said they didn't really want to bother with this but they had to because of the complaints," he said.

Building inspector Kelley said he did not know who Martin was referring to when he said "the city," but that his office was charged with ensuring that all dishes and large antennae are correctly reported and installed. "We deal with mechanics and academics," he said. "I think that the complaints some people have would go before the city planning commission."

The planning code permits use of parabolic antennae (satellite dishes) if they are not more than 25 feet tall or three meters in circumference.

Martin says his dish is 10½ feet in both height and circumference, and weighs about 200 pounds.

Larry Litchfield, assistant superintendent of the Bureau of Building Inspection, said that satellite dishes usually must be approved by the Plans Approval Division, where structural engineers inspect the construction to ensure that receivers are properly affixed to a building.

After approval by the three municipal bodies, a permit can be granted. "Unfortunately, view blockage isn't something we can control," Litchfield explained. "Aesthetics goes beyond what our bureau deals with, which is safety and structure."

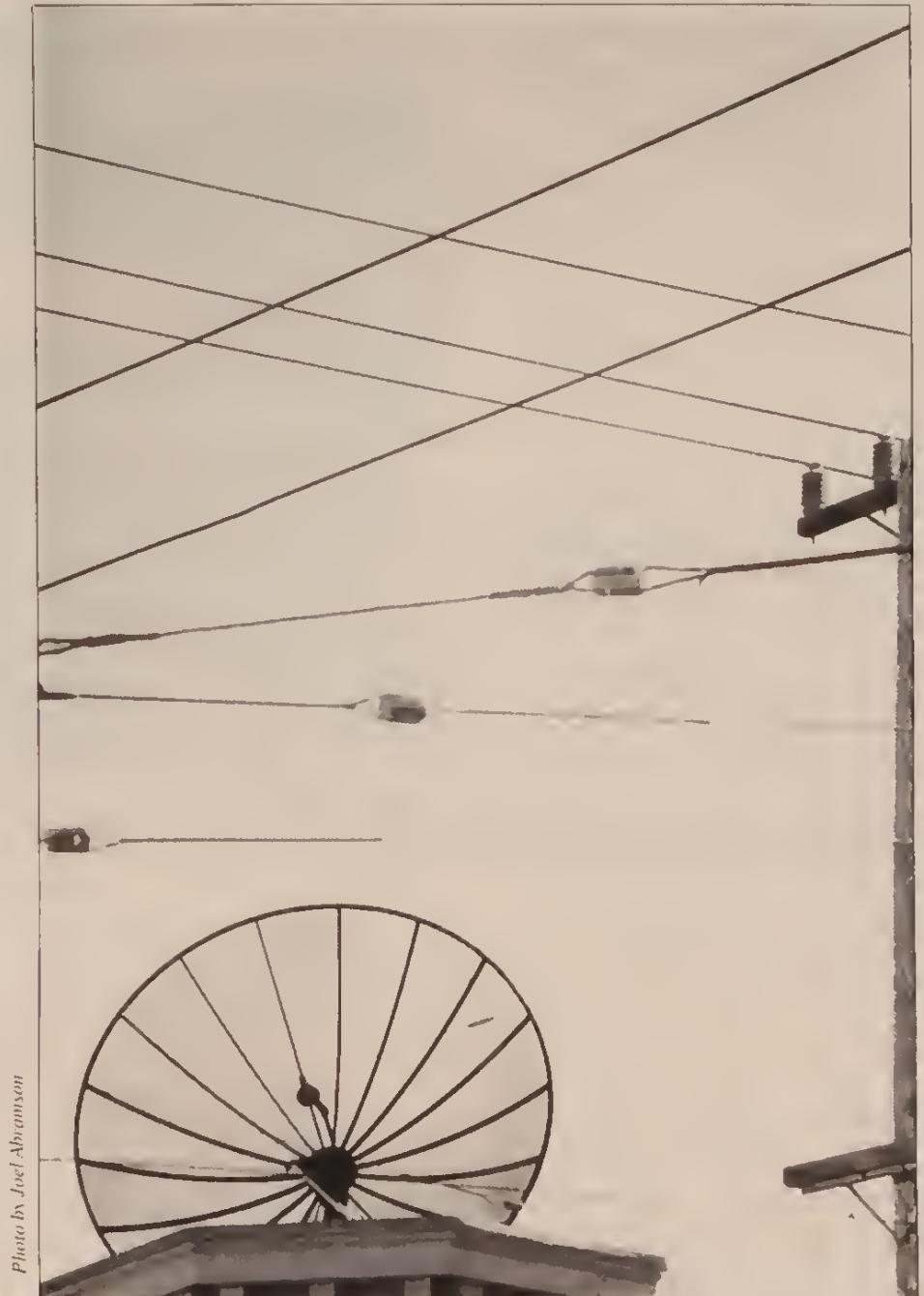
Martin will probably be granted a permit, Litchfield said. Neighbors can, however, appeal the decision to an independent body. "Those who want to be notified of the decision should ask the building inspection office to do so. They have 10 days to file an appeal," he added.

The Board of Permit Appeals reconsiders permits on an individual basis, and the neighbors would be responsible for preparing their case.

The permit decision should be made in, at most, six weeks, according to Litchfield. If an appeal is filed, the interested parties will be notified of a hearing date within 30 days of filing.

Litchfield noted that the existing regulations might not be adequate to deal with the proliferation of satellite dishes, since they were originally established to govern antennae, which are less obtrusive.

"It might be time for new legislation," said Hongisto's aide Lewis Lillian. "A 10-foot circle of steel can hardly be called an antenna" □



Some neighbors fear an invasion of satellite dishes like this one, which looms over the Phone Home store at Clipper and Castro. Owner Hugh Martin sees it as the TV wave of the future.

* * * * * Attention, Writers

The Noe Valley Voice Fiction Contest

First Prize \$100

The winning entry will be published in the December 1985 - January 1986 issue of the Noe Valley Voice.

Five additional prizes will be awarded in the form of \$25 gift certificates—one each redeemable at the following Noe Valley businesses:

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Entrants must reside in Noe Valley (roughly the area between 30th and 21st streets and Hoffman and Dolores streets, San Francisco).

No past or present staff members or contributors (except in the form of letters to the editor) to the Noe Valley Voice are eligible.

Entries must be a work of fiction no longer than 1,500 words and previously unpublished. Entrants retain all rights after publication in the Noe Valley Voice. Only one entry per author will be considered.

Judges will be the editors of the Noe Valley Voice.

Deadline for entries is November 1, 1985.

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Continued from Page 1

Abatement Unit to correct the condition." The document noted that "no evidence was received on the issue of parking and traffic problems."

Twenty-fourth Street realtor Harry Aleo did not appear at the hearing, but he says he shares Blaustein's and Methner's opinion that Noe Valley needs more human services than new bars. His organization, the Business and Professional Association, protested by mail.

"I thought we could change the use of that space," said Blaustein. "I can think of other things that building could be used for, for example a dry goods store. Noe Valley is once more becoming heavily family-oriented with a need for services (but) what I'm hearing from people is that they're no longer coming to 24th Street for these services."

Aleo and Blaustein also appealed for reasons of noise and safety. A sometime denizen of Doyle's bar at 24th and Church before World War II, Aleo recalls that "they didn't pile out of there en masse, noisy and troublesome," as he believes drinkers do now. Blaustein says an architect friend told her that the proposed bar site needed fireproofing and a means of rear exit.

The ABC nevertheless decided to dismiss the protests of "all non-appearing protestants" (including Aleo) and to "overrule" the protests of Blaustein, Methner et al. Grahlman's application to transfer a liquor license from one of his former bars was approved on July 8, and, a month later, after a visit from Mission Station permit officer Rich Pate, Grahlman posted his intent to install a pool table and "mechanical amusement devices," which will be heard by the



The former Finnegan's has had a bit of a facelift, but it's been covered over by a veil of newspapers, thanks to neighborhood opposition. Its owner expects an unveiling soon.

Police Department on Sept. 10. Blaustein, who believes Grahlman won his ABC approval purely on the basis of a technicality, says the hearing judge told her she should think about changing the ordinances which govern such actions.

Meanwhile, Tom Frenkel, who has been maintaining a successful bar, Bloom's, on Potrero Hill, has been thinking about reestablishing the Finnegan's name and style in some other space in Noe Valley. He notes that Zorba's, the Cork 'n' Bottle, and Patch County on Church Street have all been up for sale at various times during the last few months. George Kouloulias, owner of Zorba's, confirms that he talked with

Frenkel, but says the latter was unable to meet his asking price.

Aside from financial considerations, Frenkel is being careful about the terms of any new investments. He backed away from an offer on the Cork 'n' Bottle, saying that "I don't consider nine years a long-term lease. I consider 20 years a long-term lease, so that I won't be at the mercy of an irrational landlord again." Frenkel and Finnegan's landlord William Murphy had each accused the other of bad faith in negotiations that ended when Murphy failed to renew Frenkel's lease and Finnegan's closed a year ago.

For his part, Grahlman has found Murphy to be a "good landlord" from whom he can expect consideration for the \$2,000-a-month rent owed for all the months he's been unable to open. Grahlman's ire is directed towards Blaustein and the other "protestants" whom he believes "should pay the court costs." He believes Blaustein may have acted in sympathy with Frenkel, who recently 86'ed (forbade entrance to) Grahlman at Bloom's, near Grahlman's Potrero Hill home. "Frenkel told me, 'I don't like the way you handled the Finnegan's thing,'" he reports. Although Grahlman owns three or four other bars, including the Rainbow Cattle Company at Valencia and Duboce, he says he never experienced such problems with openings in any other neighborhood.

At presstime Grahlman expected to open soon, without knowing exactly when he'd be ready. He was advised by Officer Pate to clean up an old police citation. "I was walking my dog off the leash, just like Warren Hinckle," explains Grahlman. He also needs to secure his staff, and he says some of them will be former Finnegan's bartenders.

He'll hold off on his grand opening until the new bar gets named in a customers' contest. "Maybe I should call it 'Blaustein's Place,'" he joked. He's a bit worried that potential return customers from the old Finnegan's may have "wandered away and gotten comfortable somewhere else" during the long wait for a new bar.

But whether or not he opens during one of his "wet" months, Grahlman intends to get gloriously drunk. And he believes Murphy, who claimed not to have had a drink in five years, will join him. □

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Housing in Noe Valley Leaves the Elderly Out

By Julia McCollum

Housing issues touch the lives of every Noe Valley resident at one time or another. For older people, housing concerns range from dealing with the changing physical needs that may affect their ability to live alone, to being caught in the inflation spiral while trying to live on a fixed income.

Bill Rumpf, in charge of housing development at Catholic Social Services, observed that in Noe Valley, "The high rents are driving the older people out. Except for noting their absence, you don't see the problem."

"The declining health of elders, along with limited financial resources, places them in a category of 'endangered species' in the neighborhood," according to Joel Weeden, housing specialist at UCSF's Institute for Health and Aging and a Noe Valley resident. Reflecting on the problems seniors face when they must relocate for one reason or another, he observed, "The unfortunate thing in Noe Valley is there are no elderly housing options to serve the large number of residents on fixed incomes who are growing older."

According to information provided by the San Francisco Department of City Planning, over 15 percent of the city's population, or 104,285 people, are 65 or more years of age; 67,322 (64.6 percent) of these are heads of households. Twenty percent of the households headed by



Photo by Marcella Pohl

With the charm and compactness of a small village, Noe Valley is an ideal neighborhood for seniors. But high costs are forcing them out.

seniors 65 years or older are below 125 percent of the poverty threshold, as determined by the Bureau of the Census. This threshold income is approximately \$4,400 per year for a two-person household.

In reviewing 1980 census data, Weeden found that about 4,200 of Noe Valley's residents are age 55 or older. An estimated 50 percent of these residents are age 65 or older, with an additional 20 percent being 75 or older. While some social service agencies in the city recognize 55 as the age when one officially becomes a senior citizen, Weeden notes,

"Many programs for elders emphasize age 65 as an eligibility guideline for services, and new services targeted to frail elders generally serve people 75 years or older."

Options Few for Poor

In looking at household characteristics, Weeden points out that about 37 percent of Noe Valley's 4,500 households are headed by seniors 65 years or older. Less than 4 percent of these senior households, or about 50, are below 125 percent of the poverty threshold. An additional

35 senior householders have incomes between 100 and 125 percent of the poverty level. "Although no specific data is available for Noe Valley, almost 13 percent of San Francisco's overall elderly population receive a supplemental income from the state to keep them just above the poverty line."

In reviewing available senior housing options, Weeden explained that "our existing federally-assisted programs only respond to a small percentage of low-income seniors in the city. The federal

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Panos' Dinner

Appetizers

Teta Cheese and Greek Olives	2.95	
Taramosalata	Creamy caviar spread	2.95
Tzatziki	Yogurt and garlic dip	1.75
Dolmadakia	Seasoned rice rolled in grape leaves	3.50
Spanakopita	Spinach and cheese pie	4.50
Kolokithakia Tiganita	French fried zucchini served with tzatziki	4.50
Salata Horiatiki	Tomato, cucumber, feta cheese, and olives	4.50
Saganaki	Flamed greek cheese	4.50
Calamari	Marrowed or fried	4.25
Octopus a la Reggie (as available)	Marrowed octopus	5.75
Combo Appetizer Platter	Volma, feta cheese, greek olives, taramosalata, tzatziki, fried zucchini	5.75

Seafood

Served with Bread and Butter, Fresh Vegetable, and a choice of Rice Pilaf or Dinner Fries		
Pacific Oysters	Sauted with shallots, green pepper, cream and vermouth, or breaded and fried	8.95
Calamari	Sauted in olive oil with garlic and oregano, or breaded and fried	9.75
Scallops	Sauted with garlic butter, lemon and vermouth, or breaded and fried	11.95
Prawns	Sauted with garlic and Madeira wine, or breaded and fried	14.95
Coho Salmon Hemingway	Breaded with sesame seed and lemon, sauteed in white wine	9.95
Baked Coho Salmon	Stuffed with bay shrimp, mushrooms and herbs, and baked in a champagne cream sauce	9.95
Red Snapper	Sauted with mushrooms, tomato, onion and wine, or charbroiled	8.95
Rainbow Trout	Sauted with mushrooms, herbs, shallots and wine, or charbroiled	8.95

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Served with Bread and Butter

Roast Leg of Lamb	Served with roasted potatoes and fresh vegetables	11.95
Skewer Kabob	Marrowed, top sirloin, charbroiled, and served on a bed of rice pilaf with a fresh vegetable	12.95
Mediterranean Chicken	Filo wrapped breast of chicken with white cheese and broccoli, served with a wine sauce, rice pilaf and fresh vegetables	9.95
Chicken Picatta	Boneless chicken sauteed with white wine, lemon and capers, served with rice pilaf and fresh vegetables	9.95
Spanikopita	Spinach and cheese pie served with rice pilaf and fresh vegetables	6.95
Gyro Platter	1/2 lb. seasoned lean lamb and beef served open faced on warm pita bread, with tzatziki, lettuce, tomato and onion. Served with dinner fries	6.95
Dinner Burger	1/2 lb ground chuck, with sauteed mushrooms and onions on sourdough or pita	6.95

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*** Fettuccine Italiano	Fettuccine with Italian sausage, fresh chopped tomato, and fontinella cheese in a creamy white sauce	8.95
*** Pasta Neptune	Fettuccine with prawns, scallops, calamari, and mussels (in season) in an herbed, red sauce sprinkled with fresh parmesan	10.95

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Served with bread and butter

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Potatoes	1.50
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Served with bread and butter

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Beverages

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—Better Late Than Later— J Runs on Muni Time

By Suzanne Scott

If you've ever been stranded in Noe Valley waiting for a J-Church to downtown, if you've ever spent 20 minutes taking turns looking at your watch and then towards 30th Street in search of a streetcar, you might like to know that Muni publishes a timetable for commuters.

While drivers have always had schedules to adhere to, Muni decided last year to make the information public. "We wanted to give our passengers something they could use to predict their trips," says Muni spokesperson Anne Milner.

But is it accurate?

The *Voice* did its own survey of the J-Church over the past three months. Noe Valley's lifeline to downtown was clocked on six different days, for 45-to-90-minute shifts. (For a summary of the results, see box, this page.)

The Muni timetable lists arrival and departure times for 30th and Duboce. For the first part of our survey we watched Muni from the middle of its Church Street route on 20th. Therefore, we looked at the time *between* trains, instead of the precise time of arrival.

According to its spring timetable (in effect at the time), on weekday afternoons Muni was scheduled to run streetcars downtown every three to 12 minutes—an average of every 7.5 minutes. (After 5:06 they were scheduled for every six to eight minutes.) On June 3 between 3:51 and 4:42 p.m., five J's came by between 10 and 17 minutes apart. This average of 13 minutes headway is well over what it should have been. On June 4, from 4:16 to 5:24 p.m., 11 J's came by between three and 11 minutes apart, which made Muni commuters wait an average of 6.8 minutes. On May 15, between 4:59 and 5:55 p.m., 10 J's came between two and 13 minutes apart, an average of approximately six minutes, despite a disabled streetcar which blocked traffic in the opposite direction from 5:30 to 6 p.m. (see box).

On the same day, according to our survey, streetcars going towards 30th Street arrived at Dolores Park pretty much on schedule. On June 3 and 4, although the arrival times were sometimes as much as 20 minutes apart, the average frequency of trains was close to what the schedule predicted: 8.7 minutes between trains on the 3rd and 6.6 minutes on the 4th.

In July we tested Muni's summer schedule by watching the cars go by at

the end of the line at 30th and Church. Muni went from being accurate within one minute in one direction to missing three streetcars in one hour going the opposite direction. (See summer schedule box.) On subsequent testing on July 20 and 26, streetcars arrived five minutes early to exactly on time to 11 minutes late.

Anne Milner says Muni has clockwatchers who regularly test the timetable. "They very frequently run according to schedule," she said. "When they don't, it's probably a vehicle breakdown or late pull-out."

She thinks Muni's system of buses, trolleys and streetcars has benefited from the addition of 280 new buses. "Service reliability has improved," she says. "It's now running quite smoothly."

And how do Muni riders feel about the J? Several riders were asked if they had any complaints or suggestions for the J and their answers were as diverse as the Muni arrival and departure record.

Noe Valley resident Alan Bartholomew rides the J to his job downtown during non-commute hours. "It's pretty regular," he said, "but on weekends it's slow. Other than that I think it runs quite frequently. It gets me there and it gets me back."

Amanda Nowinski, on the other hand, has a long list of complaints. "They need air conditioning on hot days, open windows so you can stick your head out, softer seats, more seats, nicer bus drivers, rugs and shades." But what about the service? "It's pretty slow and irregular," she said. "You can never trust the timetable because it's either too early or too late."

Another commuter, Ann Schlee, often stops off at 24th Street on her way home from downtown to Bernal Heights. "Today has not been good," she said. (Schlee was asked on a Saturday.) "Sometimes it does pretty well. I think it could be improved. [The J] doesn't seem to run as often as the others."

Rose Garfield comes to Noe Valley from the Sunset every Saturday. "Sometimes the service is good—every 12 minutes—sometimes you wait a half hour," she said.

(Last month Muni improved its weekend schedule. There are no additional streetcars, says Milner, but they run more regularly.)

"They don't run very often," said Noe Valley resident Scott Carpenter. "They should run on schedule."



Photo by Joel Ahramson

The San Francisco Muni Coalition thinks these light-rail vehicles should be replaced by the old "green torpedoes" on the J-line for more reliable, above-ground service.

The San Francisco Muni Coalition, a citizens' group that keeps a close eye on our public transit system, agrees that J-Church service could be better. "We've been looking at the J for a long time," says member Bruce Marshall. Marshall and other coalition members have concluded that "Church Street doesn't need [underground] Metro service."

To this end, Marshall has submitted a formal proposal to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) suggesting that Muni bring back the old "green torpedoes" and other historic trolleys of the J-line and run them *above* Market Street year-round.

Both Muni and Metro passengers would benefit from above-ground transportation, says Marshall. Muni would have ten extra streetcars to be used on the four remaining Metro lines, all of which have higher ridership than the J.

Milner says PUC discussions on this plan have been "tabled" since Harold Geissenheimer left as Muni's general manager. (J-Church riders who have comments about this or other public transit issues can contact Muni or write the S.F. Muni Coalition at P.O. Box 42443, San Francisco, CA 94142).

Muni will, however, be starting construction of the J line's southward extension to Balboa Park. The \$18 million project will begin later this year, with completion set for 1987. J-Church and N-Judah cars will retire at night at the Muni Metro Center via the extended line. Milner says this will provide an additional route for cars to get downtown in case there is a breakdown on K, L or M lines. "Metro service will be much more efficient," she says.

Until then, Noe Valley residents can check the J (or 24 or 48) themselves. Muni timetables, updated quarterly, are available from drivers or at Metro stations.

Voice Survey of Average Time Between Trains at the 20th and Church Stop on the J-Church Line

Towards Noe Valley:

(according to Muni schedule approximately 7.5 minutes)

May 15	8 minutes
June 3	9
June 4	9

Towards Downtown:

(according to Muni schedule approximately 7 minutes)

May 15	6
June 3	13
June 4	7

Comparison of Muni's Scheduled Arrival and Departure Times and Actual Arrival and Departure Times at the 30th and Church Terminus on the J-Church Line

Outhound Trains (towards N.V.):

	Muni Schedule	Voice Survey
Friday, July 19	4:15	4:12
4 to 5 p.m.	4:25	4:17
	4:25	4:19
	4:40	4:46
	4:46	4:56
	4:52	
	4:52	
	4:59	

(During the above one-hour period, Muni missed three trains.)

Saturday, July 20	4:05	4:00
3:52-4:37 p.m.	4:25	4:26
	4:39	4:39

Friday, July 26	8:19	8:31
8:17-9:02 a.m.	8:25	8:36
	8:37	8:38
	8:49	8:44
	8:55	8:52

Inbound Trains (towards Downtown):

	Muni Schedule	Voice Survey
Friday, July 19	4:06	4:08
4 to 5 p.m.	4:18	4:17
	4:30	4:30
	4:36	4:36
	4:44	4:45
	4:48	4:56
	4:54	

(Muni missed one inbound train during this hour. Also note that at the beginning of the rush hour, the J follows the schedule more closely.)

Saturday, July 20	4:00	3:59
3:52-4:37 p.m.	4:16	4:15
	4:28	4:27

Friday, July 26	8:20	8:40
8:17-9:02 a.m.	8:30	8:46
	8:40	8:51
	8:50	9:01
	9:02	

(Muni missed one train during this period.)

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Working Assets' New Way To the Same Bottom Line

By Steve Steinberg

When most of us put our money in a bank or other savings vehicle, we seldom think about what happens to that money—how it's invested, what impact it may have on the world at large. We only ask that its safety is assured and that it pay us a good rate of return.

At Working Assets Money Fund, headquartered in San Francisco, investors are encouraged to care about where their money goes and what it finances. Peter Barnes, a vice-president and co-founder of the fund, says Working Assets "wants to challenge and change the way people think about capital." Specifically, Working Assets attempts to apply moral, social and environmental criteria as well as traditional financial strategies to investment decisions.

Barnes, a Noe Valley resident, says his company disputes the "great myth" that morality and capitalism have nothing to do with one another.

Like other money-market funds, Working Assets essentially pools investors' money and makes short-term, high-yield loans to various businesses, banks and government agencies. Unlike almost all other funds, Working Assets carefully screens prospective investments, checking to see if they meet the fund's standard of social responsibility—as well as being financially solid.

Working Assets will not buy, for instance, the commercial paper, or notes, of companies having a history of discrimination against minorities or a poor labor record. Nor will the fund invest in companies involved in nuclear power or weapons production. The fund also

avoids the large money-center banks, such as Bank of America, which have loaned millions to South Africa or have invested heavily in the nuclear power and defense industries.

While the fund has acquired numerous U.S. government obligations, it limits its purchase of direct government notes (treasury bills, notes and bonds) to just 10 percent of its assets. Money from direct obligations is used by the government to finance the deficit, which Working Assets attributes to excessive military spending. "We don't want to fund the Pentagon," says Barnes. The fund also will not invest in obligations such as Eurodollars that drain capital from the United States.

In choosing its portfolio, the fund looks for banks and savings and loans that invest in their home communities or that help stimulate employment by financing U.S. exports.

The fund also buys commercial paper from corporations such as Levi Strauss, Ryder Systems, and Wang Labs, which, in the fund's view, create jobs and develop the U.S. economy rather than engage in mergers and takeovers of other companies.

As a means of safeguarding its assets, Working Assets invests a minimum of 50 percent of its funds in notes issued and guaranteed by the U.S. government and its agencies. However, the fund will invest mainly in the agencies that provide housing, employment or education to Americans. Selected agencies include the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac), the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae), the Student Loan Marketing As-



Photo by Tom Wachs

Successful capitalism and moral responsibility are the strange bedfellows resting comfortably in the Working Assets Money Fund, co-founded by Peter Barnes.

sociation (Sallie Mae) and the Small Business Administration.

Founded in 1983, Working Assets has grown every month since its inception and now has assets exceeding \$60 million. That figure is only a small per-

tage of the total amount of money held in money-market funds (the current estimate for all funds is \$200 billion), but Barnes hopes that once the concept of

Continued on Page 8

NOE VALLEY TIEN FU

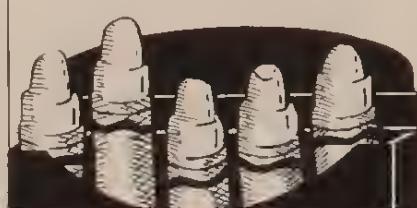
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• Working Assets •

Continued from Page 7

socially responsible investment catches on, the fund may grow to a billion-dollar venture.

Barnes began the fund with five others as a means of giving "people on the Left" the know-how to run a business. Barnes feels such knowledge is essential to bring about change in this country. He also feels that allowing people a voice in determining where their money is channeled gives them greater impact. "What we're trying to do is empower people more."

Barnes, who once worked as a reporter for *Newsweek* and the *New Republic*, is also editor of the fund's quarterly newsletter, *Money Matter*. The newsletter, he says, helps to educate the public as to current social issues related to investments.

Although money-market funds, which are a type of mutual fund, have been around for years, they only became tremendously popular within the last seven or eight years as interest rates soared. At one point the funds held \$300 billion in investment dollars, much of it taken by savers from lower-paying accounts in banks and S&Ls. In the last two or three years, as banks and S&Ls began offering their own money-market funds at com-

petitive rates, deposits in the funds dropped by billions of dollars.

Barnes says that now, however, the funds have stabilized and are again paying higher rates than the banks and S&Ls. He notes that because of lower overhead (Working Assets only has a staff of six plus several part-time sales representatives throughout the country), the funds will always beat the banks and S&Ls. Soon the funds will have their own automated teller machines to make them even more competitive.

Barnes points out that Working Assets was not affected by the recent money-market fund decline. This was largely due to the fact that the people who invest in the fund do so for philosophical and social reasons as well as financial ones. He expects this factor to allow Working Assets to continue growing in the face of changing market forces. The fund is now contemplating creating a municipal bond fund.

Will the public buy the concept of socially responsible investment? Barnes thinks a shift to that type of investment is under way (currently there is one other money-market fund and a few stock-equity funds that adhere to similar investment principles). He sees a tremendous amount of waste in the present use of capital and feels we must change the way we allocate it. Capital, like our other resources, is, after all, only a finite commodity. □

NOE VALLEY VIGNETTES



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By Florence Holub

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Hospice Benefit at Rami's Helps Home Care Program

By Larry Beresford

On Sunday, Sept. 22, from 4 to 8 p.m., Rami's Caffe at 1361 Church St. is hosting a buffet and auction for the benefit of Hospice of San Francisco. Featuring the musical entertainment of Bonnie Hayes and others, an auction of surprises, and a buffet table full of the Middle Eastern and California specialties for which the cafe is known, the festivities will raise funds to support Hospice's program of skilled and humane care for the terminally ill.

Hospice of San Francisco, founded in 1979 (and featured in the January issue of the *Voice*), now has two major programs: one largely serving elderly, terminally ill cancer patients, and a new program specializing in the care of people with AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). With the spread of this latter epidemic, the AIDS program has grown to be larger than the original cancer program—with an average caseload at any time of about 35 patients compared with 25 in the cancer program.

Hospice care is partially reimbursed by Medicare and private insurance plans, although many hospice services are not covered and patients often lack adequate reimbursement. The AIDS program is also supported in large part by a grant from the City of San Francisco. However, Hospice is also obliged to seek financial support year-round from the community, through grant requests, direct mail appeals, benefits and other fundraising activities. Over a half million dollars has been raised for patient care by Hospice of San Francisco since July of 1984, but the demand for this service is always greater than Hospice can meet.

Proceeds from the benefit at Rami's will be used to pay for attendant care for hospice and AIDS patients. Attendants provide personal care, bed baths, meals, cleaning and similar assistance for patients who have become too ill to care for themselves and who lack family members or friends able to provide such support.

In addition to rocker Bonnie Hayes, the benefit will include other musical entertainment along with Rami's culinary

creations. Among items to be auctioned are a 1976 Pacer in mint condition, dinner for four at Greens, two days at the Zen Center's Tassajara Hot Springs, and a week in a spacious Hawaiian condominium. Tickets are \$15, and will be available at the door or from Hospice of San Francisco, 285-5622.

Hospice is also recruiting potential volunteers to take a three day, 15 hour volunteer training course starting Thursday, Sept. 26 at 6 p.m. This course will be held at the hospice office, 225 30th St. between Church and Dolores. Hospice volunteers work with dying patients and their families in a variety of ways and settings. New volunteers are being recruited for the home patient care, AIDS care and bereavement programs, as well as for the auxiliary in-patient programs at San Francisco General and Garden Sullivan hospitals. Advanced enrollment is required and seats are limited. For information, phone Hospice at 285-5622.

Hospice's umbrella organization, VNA of San Francisco, has been developing a new program out of the 30th Street Senior Center. VNA's Adult Day Health Care Center serves people at risk of nursing home placement, typically patients with Alzheimer's disease or recovering from strokes. Transported to the center several days a week, the participants receive therapy, meals and recreational activities such as barbecues, dancing, exercise, art, swimming trips and choral singing. This regular support outside the home helps relieve exhausted family members, for whom such patients present 24-hour responsibilities.

One of seven such adult day health programs in the city, the 30th Street center serves clients from Noe and Eureka valleys, Diamond Heights, Upper Market, the Mission and parts of Glen Park and Bernal Heights. For more information about this service and potential referrals, call VNA at 285-5615 and ask for Adult Day Health Care. □

Editor's Note: Larry Beresford is public relations director for VNA of San Francisco, a Noe Valley resident, and a frequent contributor to the Noe Valley Voice.

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Mansion Steeped in History Looks for a New Owner

By Larry Beresford

One of the most dramatic and historic houses in greater Noe Valley is now up for sale. It comes with stupendous views, a unique Victorian facade, connections to the legendary Mammy Pleasant—and an \$850,000 price tag. This gray, three-story mansion with mansard roof and a stately arch over the second story balcony is located at 192-96 Laidley, several blocks south of 30th Street.

Put on the market by resident owners Polly Gilmore, a real estate agent, and her son Read, owner of the Brasserie Castle Grand restaurant on Folsom Street, the house is known as the Teresa Bell Mansion and dates from the 1870s. It includes two small apartments on the first floor, a master apartment with six rooms and a mix of Victorian and modern furnishings on the second floor, and a garret apartment reached from behind through a gate at 97 Miguel St..

The Bell Mansion can be seen looking straight south on Sanchez Street from around 27th to 29th, dominating the hillside. It is also worth a closer look from Laidley Street, from the little hilly park across Miguel, or from the rough trail on the adjacent vacant lot. The neighborhood, known to the old-timers as Fairmount Hill or Fairmount Park Tract, lies between Noe Valley and Glen Park.

The Bell Mansion was built for attorney Thomas Poole in the 1870s, but is connected in local lore with Mary Ellen "Mammy" Pleasant, one of the most notorious figures in the early history of San Francisco. However, Mammy Pleasant may never have set foot in the building, according to Gilmore. Pleasant's protégé Teresa Bell bought the house around 1900, after the mysterious death of her husband Thomas, and probably after breaking with Pleasant as well.

Pleasant's name turns up often in histories of early San Francisco, although

with wide discrepancy in details. She was said to be born in Georgia, Virginia, Louisiana or Philadelphia around 1814, either as a slave or the free child of a slave mother said to come from a succession of voodoo queens from Santo Domingo.

Pleasant holds a prominent place in black history in the United States. Her first husband was an abolitionist and associate of William Lloyd Garrison; on his deathbed he demanded that Mammy spend a portion of his fortune on the work of freeing slaves. She is credited with helping to free hundreds of slaves and, accordingly, carried a price on her head in several Southern states, narrowly avoiding capture numerous times.

Pleasant reputedly also helped finance John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry, Virginia in 1859. The unfortunate Brown was carrying a handwritten note attributed to Mammy when captured.

Mammy arrived in San Francisco in 1852 with a reputation as the best chef in New Orleans, and quickly established herself as a cook, housekeeper, boarding house operator, stock market and real estate investor and madame. She supplied both domestic help for many of the better households in San Francisco, and attractive young women to marry wealthy San Franciscans.

A noteworthy example of that last service was Teresa Percy, discovered by Mammy walking on the street in 1868. Teresa was described by Pleasant's biographer Helen Holdridge (in *Mammy Pleasant*, Nourse Publishing Co., 1953) as a "striking beauty" with "eyes of deep pansy blue, half hidden by curling black lashes," and with "a somber oval face, so perfectly molded, with its aquiline nose and fascinating mouth."

With her hair dyed blonde, Teresa was introduced and eventually married to Thomas Bell, a Scottish adventurer and Pleasant's business partner who made a



The splendid view from inside the Teresa Bell Mansion is more than matched by the elegance and eccentricity of its architecture.

fortune as an investment broker and mine owner and was at one time a vice president of the Bank of America. At Pleasant's direction, another huge gray three-story mansion with mansard roof was built for the three of them in the 1870s at a cost of \$100,000. Located at Bush and Octavia, this house became known as the House of Mystery; it burned down in the 1920s.

The relationship of the Bells and Pleasant was stormy. Thomas Bell fell to his death down the mansion's circular staircase in 1892, and Pleasant was implicated, although never charged with his murder. Several years later Teresa threw Mammy out of the House of Mystery, and Teresa moved into the Laidley Street mansion around the turn of the century, remaining there until her death in 1922.

Although lacking the notoriety of the House of Mystery on Octavia, the Laidley Street mansion has its share of curiosities, according to Polly Gilmore.

She bought the house in 1967, and has remodeled much of the interior. A staircase connecting the second and third floors was covered over, leaving a number of steps leading nowhere, either open or walled in, on the second floor. False ceilings had been lowered by previous owners to the height of eight feet, lower than the tops of the magnificent bay windows, Gilmore said.

"I understand that in the 1940s a little Italian man who owned the house and didn't care for Victoriana had many of the fixtures and detailing carted off to the dump," she said. Gilmore and her son have tried to restore some of the original detailing, and have added lattice-work to the deck and a second entrance to the garret apartment. The main entrance in back crosses a little bridge above a rock garden.

The Bell Mansion sits on approximately three city lots and comes with a two-car garage. Potential buyers can contact Polly Gilmore at 334-1880. □

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Songs of Struggle

In Central and South America, Canto Popular (popular song) has been an integral part of the struggle against oppression and injustice, as well as a celebration of indigenous music and culture. This vital form of communication will be heard locally in the Fourth Annual Encuentro del Canto Popular, set for Sept. 13 and 14 at the Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St. Fourteen groups from Chicano, Andean, Caribbean and Central American folk music throughout California will perform at the event. It's sponsored by *El Tecolote*, the Bay Area's bilingual (Spanish-English) newspaper with offices on 21st Street, and proceeds go towards future Encuentros.

Alma Rendon, a member of the steering committee of this year's festival, hopes it will contribute to "the enjoyment and inspiration of all residents, in particular the Chicano Latino youth who need positive examples of their own cultural heritage." For information on times and tickets, call 824-7878. And note that several of the groups will appear on the main stage during the 24th Street (Mission District) Fair on Sept. 15.

Autumn Art

In Noe Valley the achievement of the autumnal equinox is marked by the hanging of art in Gallery Sanchez at the Noe Valley Ministry. If you're an artist and want to be part of the harvest, you can bring a maximum of two works in any media to the Gallery at 1021 Sanchez St. on Sept. 27 between 2 and 7 p.m. There's a size limit of five feet in any direction, a weight limit of 20 pounds, and a \$5 application fee which is refunded if your work is not accepted by juror Kit Cameron. The piece(s) must be wall hangable and will be insured up to a value of \$1,000. Whether or not you're an artist, you can come to a reception for the participants in this Sixth Autumn Annual on Sept. 29 between 2 and 4 p.m. The show runs through Nov. 22. Call 282-2317 for more info.

Good Garbage

In a recent public pamphlet, Mayor Dianne Feinstein noted that her fellow Californians generate each year "enough garbage to fill two freeway lanes to a depth of 10 feet from Mexico to the Oregon border." While we can't necessarily help eradicate the garbage scraping the skies downtown, we can take our newspapers, cardboard, bottles and aluminum items to our local recycling center at Mission High School at Church and 18th streets on the morning of the second Saturday of each month. There boys and girls and adult alumni turn garbage into saleable recyclables which in turn finance equipment and activities for the American Youth Hostels' Ecology Club.

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SHORT TAKES



Guitarists and Noe Valley residents Alex de Grassi (left) and Bruce Forman go bats when they take to the softball field, but they'll be playing music at the Noe Valley Ministry on Sept. 14.

Make sure you rinse out containers, remove caps, and separate by material, and call 558-2361 for information and an informative booklet.

Mom's Mural

Artist and mother Christine Puskas would love to paint a mural on the site of the gymnasium at the Upper Noe Valley Recreation Center where her son plays, but she needs your help. The city's recreation and parks department owns the building, and for the city to approve and fund the project, a display of public support is needed. Write Puskas at 3782 Mission St., No. 4, S.F. 94110, or call 282-8995 if you'd like to see this dream take form.

Seniors' Freebie

Mount Zion Hospital at 1600 Divisadero is looking for folks 60 and over who have not seen a physician for at least a year. If you qualify, you'll get, free of charge, a physical examination, a lab profile, a dental examination, assessment of speech, language and hearing abilities, referrals to other resources and a follow-up on the findings by a public health nurse. Phone 885-7529 for an appointment.

Kid Car Care

Car accidents kill or cause injury to more children under the age of 4 than any other single cause. To reduce this threat by 95 percent, you should place your progeny in an infant or toddler car seat. And to encourage you, the Child Health and Disability Prevention Program of the city's public health department is making the specially designed seats available on a nine-month loan basis. An \$18 deposit is taken, but when the seat is returned clean, on time, and in good condition, \$15 of the deposit is refunded. It's not only good sense, it's now the California law! Call the program during work hours at 558-2403.

Musicians of Summer

What do Alex de Grassi, Bruce Forman, George Cables, Larry Kasson, Mark Pritchard, Larry Walker and Ken Miller have in common? Well, they're all musicians who live or work in or near Noe Valley. They also will all be appearing (in one form or another) in concert at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., on Saturday, Sept. 14, at 8:15 p.m. in a "Live-Aid" benefit to replace equipment stolen from their softball team.

Softball players? You bet. When these

guys show up, they play, sometimes first base, sometimes first bass. Bassist Miller had to leave practice recently to rehearse Wagner's *The Ring* with Edo de Waart and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. Guitarist de Grassi, meanwhile, a veritable Dr. Jekyll of sensitive, impressionistic string improvisation, becomes a Mr. Hyde on the basepaths, terrorizing opposing third basemen with his barreling hook-slides.

It's the Bay Bridge Recording Studio/Noe Valley Musicians' softball team.

This rag-tag, sonorous sports aggregation, which also includes creative artists of various ilk, evolved out of Monday morning games at Upper Douglas Field (musicians seldom work during the day). Things got serious when future co-captains Forman and Mark Wise convinced future team owner Larry Walker to advance the cash needed for their jerseys, which originally advertised Walker's Noe Valley Music store. Though city park officials were suspicious that none of the members had a work phone number, the team was allowed to join the "D" league and promptly got their codas heat out. Since then they've improved to the point where they win about half their games.

But their softball equipment was ruthlessly and coldheartedly ripped off a few months ago—catcher's mask, hats and all. The upcoming benefit concert will present a wide range of music surpassed only by the wider range of their abilities on the softball diamond. From the Windham Hill guitar stylings of de Grassi (who will appear in a special video) to the hot jazz licks of Bruce Forman and George Cables (who will also celebrate the release of their new Concord Records album, *Dynamics*) to Pritchard's solo New Wave vocals accompanied by his \$59 Casio keyboard, among others, this promises to be an evening which will have something for everyone.

As Larry Walker once told an umpire during a losing game, "This team can play a helluva national anthem." Call 282-2317 for statistics.

Fair Tales

A week after the harvest moon, the 13th annual Noe Valley Street Fair takes over 24th Street with its usual cornucopia of crafts, calories and *al fresco* creativity.

On Sept. 8, tourists from Twin Peaks to Tuolumne will join the locals between Church and Diamond streets. Sponsored by the Noe Valley Merchants Association, the yearly neighborhood institution features an eclectic menu of musicians, including jazz, classical, Latin and blues artists. There will be food to satisfy every palate, and the crowd, as in years past, should include yuppies, Old Leftists, and New and Permanent Wavers.

Wave a big thanks to Ron Klein, president of the Merchants, and his cohorts for what promises to be another festive afternoon.

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• Elderly Face Housing Woes •

Continued from Page 5

government now claims that San Francisco has its fair share of public housing funds to subsidize senior apartments. However, we have many more low-income elders, particularly those frail elderly with higher service needs, who cannot find affordable housing arrangements in San Francisco."

These supportive housing arrangements, often referred to as congregate housing or board and care facilities, include assistance with meals preparation, housekeeping, social activities, and if needed, personal care such as bathing and dressing assistance. According to Rand Fleming, a planner for the San Francisco Commission on Aging, less than 20 people are currently living in this type of arrangement in Noe Valley.

Except for recent sporadic publicly-assisted housing developments and renovations in the inner city, well-publicized but hardly adequate to meet the needs of a growing senior population, public officials have not met the challenge to enhance the abilities of neighborhoods to solve the housing problems of older people, according to Weeden.

New forms of housing need to be encouraged that take into account the changing demography and personal preferences of older housing consumers, along with the realities of the San Francisco real estate market and "Reaganomics." Even if Noe Valley wanted it, government cutbacks prohibit creating additional subsidized senior housing.

What little development money that is left will not meet even a small percentage of the current need for affordable housing.

Governor Vetoes Aid

In July of this year, Governor Deukmejian eliminated all but \$3.5 million from a housing development spending package of \$37.5 million approved by the legislature. Cuts included \$10 million for rental housing construction, \$7 million for emergency shelters and residential hotels for the homeless, \$7 million for housing rehabilitation, and \$1 million for housing the disabled. These allocations would have augmented substantially larger housing efforts that have been a responsibility of the federal government.

In his veto message to the legislature, the governor cited the availability to cities and counties of \$1.5 billion in mortgage revenue bonds for supporting rental housing construction. The Progressive Housing Alliance, a coalition of public-assistance housing advocates, contends that this financing option overwhelmingly benefits middle-income families and provides little relief to the poorest residents of California.

Weeden explained that succeeding with mortgage revenue bonds is difficult in San Francisco. "Construction costs in the city are higher than elsewhere in California. As a result, the expected benefit to produce low rents from these bonds is negligible for those who need affordable housing in order to remain in the city."

According to his veto message, the governor does claim he is open to future proposals to help elderly and disabled persons stay in neighborhoods, but Weeden notes, "He appears to be against investing state funds in those federal housing initiatives of the past two decades that have focused on low-income housing construction and has so far not gotten behind any new forms of housing for population groups having special housing needs."

Weeden also feels that city housing administrators are not responsive to attempts to develop new forms of housing for elders. "They don't want to expand into new programs because they fear their departments will be flooded with requests they can't deal with." He sees the city currently being most responsive to family housing issues, encouraging family home construction and subsidized condominium options for two- and three-bedroom units.

If the need for senior housing has not penetrated the various bureaucracies, there is evidence of a growing concern among neighborhood residents.

"Noe Valley needs its elders to complete the picture of a well-rounded residential community," confirmed Dr. Joyce Reams, executive director of the San Francisco Commission on Aging and a Noe Valley resident. "One of the advantages of Noe Valley is that shopping is within walking distance. That, combined with accessible citywide transportation and a good climate, make Noe Valley an extremely helpful area for seniors to live."

Others feel strongly about keeping elders in the neighborhood. According to

Gray Panther and neighborhood activist Miriam Blaustein, "People continue to live useful lives and have much to offer to a community. Old people should remain in the mainstream, and not be 'ghettoized' in anonymous enclaves removed from their lifelong contacts."

Nina Zampel, long-time Noe Valley resident and nursery school teacher, feels that "Our neighborhood needs older people. I want to live in an intergenerational community."

In spite of an unresponsive city position on senior housing issues, there are a growing number of options for neighborhood elderly homeowners and renters being provided by non-profit and private agencies.

One of the most far-reaching of these programs is the Independent Housing Service (IHS), funded by Catholic Social Services and co-sponsored by the Independent Living Resources Center, a community organization for the disabled. Its housing goals are twofold: to place low-income older and handicapped individuals in appropriate housing situations and to provide assistance to homeowners who want to develop small units compatible with the needs of the elderly or handicapped.

Walter Park, executive director of IHS, reports that last year IHS had requests from 500 disabled and 360 elderly San Francisco residents for housing. It filled 40 percent of these requests, a high success rate considering the special needs both these groups have. Homes for many of these renters were found in the Tenderloin because of recent federal

Continued on Page 13

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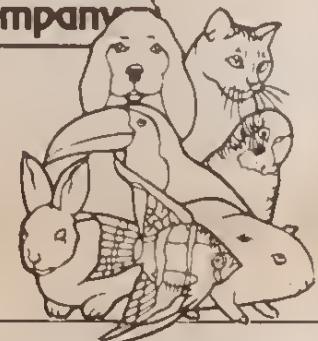
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Housing Woes

Continued from Page 12

housing development activity in that area. Private homes and apartments sprinkled throughout the city accounted for the rest.

IHS has placed a number of elders and handicapped people needing apartments through the Section 8 Program, a federal initiative which provides a rent subsidy to qualifying individuals. In this program, the renter pays about one-third of the apartment rent at fair market value, and the federal government pays the rest. Interested parties may inquire about this program at the IHS office (441-6781).

IHS recently established a Shared Housing Program which it hopes will accomplish at least short-term relief until the city and the private sector figure out ways to solve the increasingly critical housing shortage problem for elders. Park feels that the long-range solution would require a substantial increase in low-maintenance, low-rent, high-subsidy housing, but the need is urgent and can't wait for legislation.

Park pointed out that, "While several shared-housing programs exist in San Francisco already, IHS is addressing the needs of elders and handicapped people in particular." IHS plans to add a full-time counselor to its staff within a year to expand the program. "The goal is to look at all possible options to get people together and make it work," said Park.

For IHS, prime candidates for shared housing are elderly homeowners who might rent rooms in their houses to other elderly or disabled persons or to younger persons in exchange for services and home security. For people who have a room to rent, the benefits are income, security and companionship. IHS carefully screens applicants to provide good matches, and plans to offer follow-up services to resolve any questions that arise and need mediation. For information about this program, call Pat Jones at the IHS office.

One Answer: Doubling Up

Options for Women Over Forty has been awarded a two-year grant from the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development to establish a shared-housing program. Although men and women will be served, one of the parties in every match must be over 61. Counselors will screen applicants to achieve optimal matches. Options will hold a "Housing Options Conference" in the near future to initiate and develop resources for this program. Interested people who need or who have housing to share may call Lynn Smith or Rita Solinas at 431-6905.

Nick Lederer, director of Golden Gate Senior Services (operating three senior centers, including the one at the Noe Valley Ministry), feels that "it is so expensive for seniors to live alone, that

people want to stay in the city they'll have to double up."

However, he is not an advocate of seniors taking a room in someone else's space, because "they are not on equal footing. They stand a better chance of success if a group undertakes a rental together."

Echoing the sentiments of other non-profit housing workers, Lederer concluded, "More needs to be said about shared housing, and more resources need to be put into shared housing. The city is not putting much effort into solving this problem."

Several interesting programs have emerged to aid elderly home owners. The Reverse Action Mortgage Program provides income to seniors who want to draw on the equity they have built up over the years. These funds would be reabsorbed by the seller whenever the house is sold. Kathy Uhl, executive director of the Independent Living Resource Center in San Francisco, reported that her agency will soon be administering this program started by the San Francisco Development Program three years ago. Their role is to counsel interested elders about the program and to facilitate bank processing. For more information, call 751-8765.

IHS's homeowner program assists seniors who wish to add a second unit to their single-family building (sometimes called "grandfather units"). This type of addition is legal in San Francisco if the unit will be occupied by elders or

Photo by Marcella Polk



Making sure that older persons remain integrated in the community is healthy for everyone. Several governmental and private programs are working to realize this goal.

Noe Valley's provisions for senior housing?

Gus Blatter, 69, reflected, "I was born here and I lived here all my life. Renters have a big problem. I paid \$3,000 for my house 48 years ago, and today half of that is one month's rent."

Robbie Hinkle agreed, "The rents are ridiculous. In my case, if I hadn't returned to work after retirement, I wouldn't be able to live here. It's sad—I put in 22 years in the Service, and I came back to rents so high I had to live in my van for a year. Everybody is stepping on

over their fear of living with other people and sharing their lives. It's not easy, but it's harder to live all by yourself when you are old. Although I think more of my family as I grow older, I wouldn't want to relocate or to impose on them. But I am planning definitely to live with or near other people of all ages as I grow older."

"I like the Japanese ethic of a sense of pride in doing for the whole rather than only for yourself. We should all be thinking and planning for housing that includes everyone in the community."

'Noe Valley needs its elders to complete the picture of a well-rounded community.'

disabled persons, and if it is designed for handicapped access. There are special loans available to finance these second units, which generally cost about \$17,000 to build. Grandfather unit benefits include extra income to the homeowner, subsidized or low rent for the tenant, and security, companionship and privacy for both parties.

IHS staff architects will help design suitable grandfather units. Then, housing counselors will help low- or fixed-income elderly and handicapped people obtain subsidies when possible to live in these units.

In one recent conversion, an elderly man turned his garage into a wheelchair-accessible in-law unit and rented it to a disabled person, increasing his income and her mobility. In another, a senior homeowner built a grandfather unit, moved into it himself and rented out his large house. For more information about this program, call IHS architect Andrew Beckerman at 441-7713.

\$3,000 for a House

How do elder men and women and potential elders (the rest of us) feel about

other people's heads to make money?"

Another Noe Valley resident, Jo Ann Lamb, observed, "I know one senior citizen. They keep raising her rent, but she feels locked in. If she moved, she'd have to pay more. Even though the rent keeps rising, she can't afford to move. Yuppies and young people share flats; maybe seniors should, too."

Patricia Banner observed that "people with in-law units would have to be willing to take less rent or have the responsibility of an older person who might fall down."

Landlords need not feel total responsibility for older renters, however. Mount Zion offers a Lifeline Personal Emergency Hotline button to be worn by elders living alone (for information, call 855-7591).

Both Lederer and Park emphasize counseling as a way to ease fear of dealing with elders' frailties and to polish up group problem-solving skills. Lederer said, "I've lived in many types of communal situations already; I am sure that I'll be living in one when I'm older."

Zimpel, a long-term homeowner and renter who has lived in a family and alone, concluded, "People have to get



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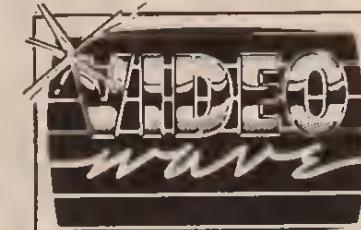
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Sat. Sept. 14 Bruce Forman, Alex de Grassi, George Cables, Larry Kassin, Mark Pritchard, Larry Walker and more in a live aid benefit for their softball team.

Sat. Sept. 21 Ira Stein & Russel Walder, Windham Hill Records' piano/oboe duo.

Sat. Sept. 28 An evening of new and unusual songs with Pamela Z, Mark Pritchard and Junglebook.

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Independent Booksellers: Better Read Than Dead

By Lisa Hoffman

If you want to buy a book on psychology or philosophy, you would be well advised to browse among the thousands of titles at Cover to Cover, one of Noe Valley's independent bookstores. If you are looking to read up on an esoteric subject of any kind, the shelves at Small Press Traffic, another 24th Street bookstore, would be a good place to search.

Because of unique local demand, the selection at these stores differs from what is available to readers in "chain" bookstores.

"Neighborhood bookstores reflect the neighborhoods they serve," says Cover to Cover owner Nicky Salan. Unfortunately, however, the survival of independent bookstores is threatened by chains like Crown, Waldenbooks and B. Dalton, which sell bestsellers at reduced prices.

"They (the chain stores) rob the independent bookseller of the books that really support their business—which are the bestsellers," says Denise Kasdan, manager of Small Press Traffic.

A major difference between a Cover to Cover and a Crown is the independent's larger range of titles, including medium-selling and more obscure books. And the individual bookstore "gives books a longer run, a chance to find their audience," says Salan. "If you are someone who reads, and not just bestsellers, your chances of finding a book (at a chain) are not wonderful, especially if it's been out longer than three and a half minutes."

Because of the shorter shelf life and narrower range of books that characterize chain stores, their growing dominance has eroded support for books which might reach a sizable audience yet are not "blockbusters," and for unknown authors trying to reach readers for the first time.

"Only the brand names get sold," writer Herb Gold says of the conglomerates. "If it's not a bestseller, it does not have a good chance to be stocked." Author of such well-selling (if not best-selling) titles as *Mister White Eyes* and *True Love*, Gold adds, "The staff will tell people, 'We don't have that, won't this do instead?' They sell only books in stock, and they don't have thousands in stock as normal bookstores have."

Gold's books are carried by conglomerate stores. Yet, he can be affected by their approach to the market. "Unless a book sells very well, out it goes," he says. And that can mean a book is booted out before reviews that might strengthen its sales are printed. "If the reviews don't come out until after the book disappears," says Gold, "too bad."

Thirteen weeks is a fairly good span for a book in a chain store, unless it sells phenomenally, according to Salan. Independent bookstores "tend to keep books because they love them. Some customer's going to walk in and say, 'I need [a book], and you're going to get the chance to say, 'You need to read this!'"

The staff and environment at independents are often quite different from the chains. A steaming pot of coffee or tea is always ready at Cover to Cover for customers who want to sip and browse. Or sip and schmooze with a staff that is able "to converse with people, make recommendations and pass on review information," Salan notes. "We do a lot of things that chain bookstores won't do. We special order books, we wrap presents. When we send books via UPS, we don't hike up the charges." Customers who have ordered books while in the hospital have had them delivered free of



Photo by Tom Wachs

Owner Nicky Salan (left) and manager Joan Vigliotta think their 24th Street bookstore, Cover to Cover, has all the right elements to make a stand against the chain stores: full service, a friendly staff, and a broad spectrum of books reflective of the neighborhood.

charge, and "there are people in the neighborhood we drop books off to because we're on the way home," says Salan.

As the owner of an independent bookstore, Salan is involved in choosing the titles that Cover to Cover carries. For chain stores, such decisions are made from a distance, based on a formula whose only criteria is volume of sales. It is a formula which works, and the impact on the independents is powerful.

A stark example involves the Bookplate, an independent bookstore/restaurant on Chestnut Street. A Waldenbooks opened nearby, and almost immediately 40 percent of sales at the Bookplate were drained away.

But the independents are putting up a good fight. Northern California is, says Salan, "one of the few bastions in America of healthy bookstores." The story is different in areas like Los Angeles, which had 60 or 70 good independent bookstores at one time, according to Salan, and "there probably aren't five left any more."

One challenge for independents is for their proprietors to become more savvy businesspeople. "Booksellers have not been a group who have traditionally paid attention to sharp, streamlined business practices," says Salan. "They are trying to get better at it."

Is there room for independent bookstores and chain bookstores to co-exist? What's in the future for the book-selling industry? The questions are numerous, and answers are unclear at best.

Kasdan points out that "nobody wants to think of books as a commodity, but they are because they get sold in the marketplace. People have to come to terms with that. The problem is that for any other commodity, people would welcome a (chain store). They would welcome a large hardware store that has the same thing a neighborhood store has, but cheaper. The intelligent consumer will buy a \$2-cheaper cookbook at Crown."

And as consumers flock to Crown, "They get to control the entire marketplace," says Kasdan. "The independents don't have enough cash to keep other books because they are supported by bestsellers."

Survival is, of course, a major issue for Nicky Salan and other owners of independent bookstores. Another concern involves what Joan Vigliotta, Cover to Cover's manager, sees as the psychological damage of Crown's marketing approach: "If you paid full price, you didn't buy it at Crown." The underlying concept is that books aren't worth the full cost,

i.e., that price should be the priority in choosing where they are purchased.

"What you get between the covers of a book is something you can read again and again and pass on to a friend or that can literally change your life," says Vigliotta. "How can you say that they cost too much? It's a horrible idea. The damage can't be gauged. Independents keep trying to reinforce the value of books to people by saying, 'This is wonderful,' and hoping that price doesn't get in the way."

The trend in publishing parallels the trend in bookselling as huge conglomerates snap up smaller publishing houses which simply cannot survive in today's market. There is great danger in this trend, according to Salan, who depicts a nightmarish future involving only five publishers and five bookstores.

"You lose a whole spectrum of thought," says Salan. "When people buying for five bookstores decide what will be published because they know what their 'readers' will read, then you're in trouble. That's the scariest thing about all this. It's not so much whether or not I'll be out of business, or the people down the street will be out of business, it's going to be what are you going to be selling."

People in the independent end of the business have a different approach, says Vigliotta. "People in the book business believe that democracy has something to do with free flow of information."

We aren't yet approaching the dire predictions of *Fahrenheit 451*, and the future is not "completely gloomy," says Vigliotta. "There are a lot of us out there who are committed to books."

"Publishers are concerned," says Salan. "If you put all your eggs in one basket and the basket collapses or changes hands or changes directions, you're stuck. I think publishers are beginning to realize that—it's safer for them to be dealing with lots and lots of businesses."

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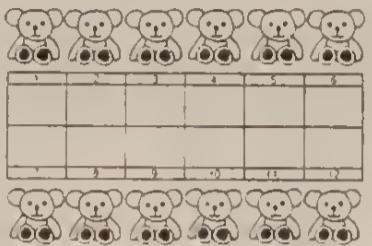
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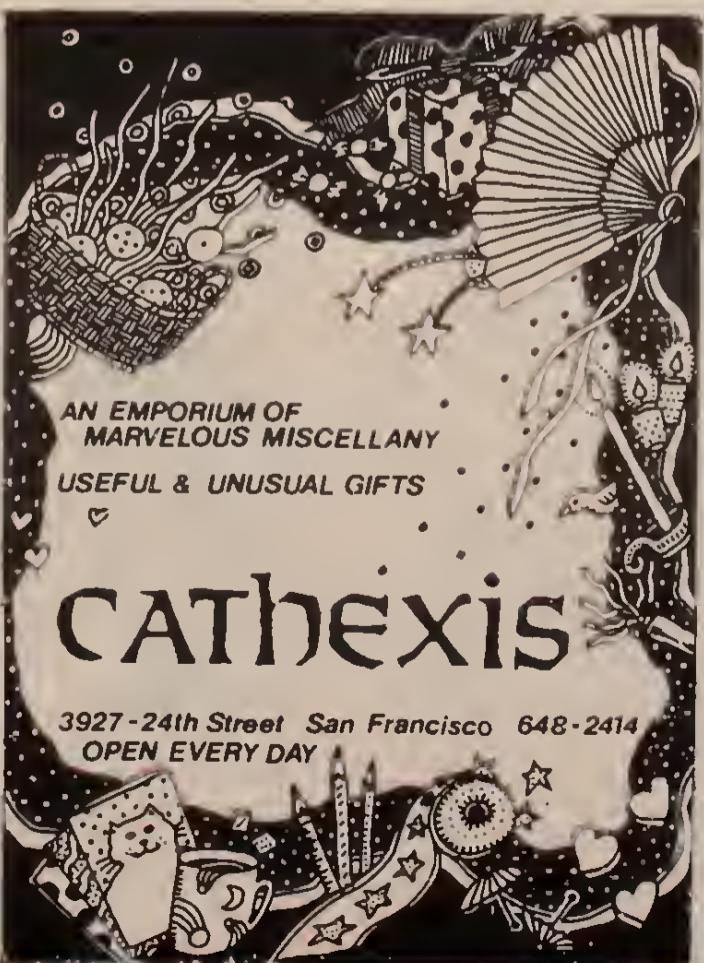
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By Mazook

UP YOUR ALLEY: tourists come, tourists go. Visitors demand to know, "Where is Noe Valley, anyway?" That's Noe, no-ce, and no, it's nowhere near Mill Valley. "We are in Oakland now," says friends from the East.

"We're somewhere near the geographical center of San Francisco, you know. Take Bay Bridge-101 South, Army Street West, right at Noe down to 24th Street, and there you are," says you.

You point your guests west, straight ahead are Twin Peaks (the north peak is 910 feet above sea level, the south peak 903). Looking to the left, you see Gold Mine (679') and Red Rock (689') hills.

How about getting back into the car for a spin? Up the Castro Hill (407'), right at 22nd Street (Noe Heights), straight ahead down the 22nd Street Hill, past the yellow warning sign on which the word "Hill" has been spray-painted out and replaced by the word "Cliff," and right on down the steepest street in a city with 43 hills.

You traverse streets steeped in history and named after the likes of Joaquin Isidro de Castro, Jose de Jesus Noe, Jose Antonio Sanchez, Juan B. Alvarado, and, of course, Joseph Comerford.

Passing by Comerford Street (named by resolution of the board of supervisors in 1918 after a local builder who erected many Noe Valley houses starting in the 1880s), with pride you suggest to your friends from the East that they might want to buy this quaint little (18 feet wide) alley which runs 285 feet from Sanchez to Church between 27th and Duncan. It has freshly placed street signs, and yes, it is for sale!

According to Deputy Tax Collector Richard Sullivan, the lower and upper halves are private property and will be sold at auction sometime in November or December for nonpayment of property taxes by long forgotten owners (the last owners of record date back to *circa 1930*). Sullivan says that the notices to all abutting property owners as well as state and local agencies will soon go out in the mail, and sealed bids will be accepted in advance of the auction.

It appears bidders will have no competition from the city. Department of Public Works has no interest in Comerford, according to Streets and Surveys' chief Joe Pelayo. "Alleys must be 20 feet wide in order to be dedicated for public use," he said. Bringing Comerford up to code and maintaining it present big obstacles to

and now for the RUMORS behind the news



Photo by Joel Abramson

city streethood, according to Pelayo.

Ken Bohegian of San Francisco's department of real estate confirmed that his department had had no requests from the city Fathers and Mothers to acquire this "paper street." Ken points out that "there are many private streets in the city; our mayor lives on one." (Presidio Terrace, to be precise.)

Owners of the property on each side of Comerford are yet to be heard from. If they all ban together, Comerford could go condo, a befitting tribute to this early Noe Valley developer.

RANDOM NOE NOISE: Bank of America's Noe Valley branch has installed a newswire display (just like Times Square's) on its east wall to occupy the minds of all those waiting in line to visit their money. Tellers tell us that they have had favorable reactions from customers to the world news and sports reports. What's more, the darn thing (it's called "Silent Radio" and has been installed in most BofA branches) doesn't keep banker's hours, but runs 24 hours a day.

Local videoramas report your favorite home movies are "Star Man" and "A Soldier's Story." However, folks at National Video report a rather disturbing trend: their most requested video this summer was "Faces of Death", a gagumentary featuring graphic depictions of death and

dismemberment. "Faces of Death" has been banned in no fewer than 46 other countries, many of them no doubt "underdeveloped."

Top disc at both Streetlight and Aquarius Records is Sting's latest, "The Dream of the Blue Turtles."

Cover to Cover reports that your favorite book of the month is Milan Kundera's *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, while Noe Valley author John Krich has captured local fancy with his *Music in Every Room* escapade.

The summer-night sidewalk shopper stopper had to be the Prismatic Rainbow Maker projecting said rainbow onto the pavement in front of Star Magic. At \$625 a pop, the Star magicians are sold out. No word on whether the store obtained a Special Hues permit for the display.

Look for a clothes boutique to move into the store at 24th and Sanchez recently vacated by Custom Framers... It also looks like the must-sell-everything sign will again grace the window glass at Red Peppers. The five-and-dime clothing store's management is looking for someone, anyone, to take over the lease... And Noe Jeans et al did not change ownership. They just dropped the "et al," repainted the awning and upgraded their stock. Says storeperson Linda Berland, "People are dressing up

more now and are into natural fiber cotton clothes and less denim."

FOOD FRONT: Ali Givechi, the Specialty Chef, tells us that everyone is asking for Buffalo Milk Mozzarella cheese, these days. "I can't keep it in stock more than a day," says Ali. If the Chef's run out of the bison curd and you need a quick fix, how 'bout sneaking into the buffalo paddock in Golden Gate Park with a bucket? A cheap, fresh, exciting alternative to store-bought buffalo mozzarella, if you ask me... New to the shelves of the Real Food Company is a little taste of North Beach: Caffe Trieste coffee. Real manager Kevin Carlson says that they chose the Cafe Trieste blends because "roasting makes the difference and they do it very well."... Our latest scoop is Viva Gelato ice cream now proliferated by the folks at Courtyard Cafe.

Meanwhile, Double Rainbow Ice Cream found itself frozen out of passion fruit sherbet, their projected flavor of the month of July. It seems that DR's passion fruit fell victim to an international sugar price war. According to Rainbow warrior Keith Refsnider, processed passion fruit syrup was embargoed this summer by the U.S. government along with all other imported sugar stuffs when the world market price of sugar dropped to 2.6 cents a pound while domestic prices were government-supported at a little over 20 cents a pound. DR finally liberated their passion fruit supply sitting in Germany and now feature the sherbet at their 24th Street shop.

BOTTOM OF THE BARREL: The city-owned trash can located on the corner of Castro and 25th which constantly runneth over with garbage was no match for Noe Valley's Mr. Clean, Fred "Who Else" Methner. After the corner became a perpetual dump site, Fred marched down to an impromptu brainstorming session at City Hall with street cleaning chief, John Roumanis. Remove the trash can, they reasoned, and you'll remove the trashers. Now the can's gone, so's the trash, and so am I. See you all at Rami's Caffe, 1361 Church, on Sept. 22 at 4 p.m. for a buffet benefit and auction for the Hospice of San Francisco. Me he the auctioneer for this worthy cause and we just might put Comerford Street on the block and see how much it will fetch. Ciao for now. □

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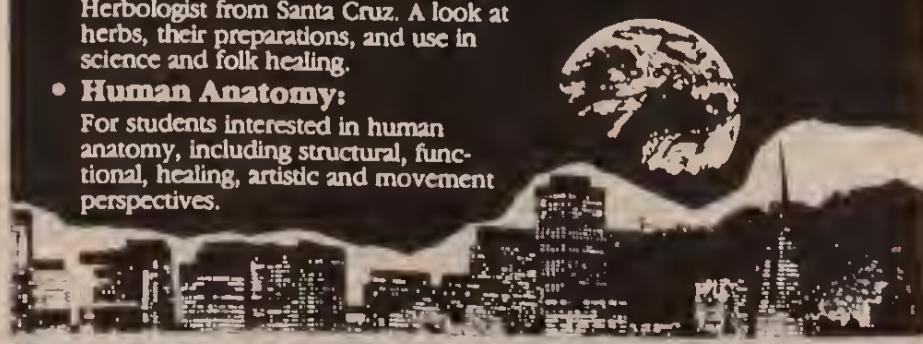
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Freelance Filthbusters: It's a Dirty Job, But...

By Karen Gibbons

Let's face it, very few houses could be considered to be *clean* in the literal sense of the word. According to the *Modern Guide to Synonyms*, the word clean refers to "anything that is unsoiled by use or neglect or that is untainted by dirt or grime."

This may sound like an impossible state of affairs for most homes to aspire to. However, there exist souls in this world who would turn your personal Scene of the Grime into a sparkling scene fit for a television commercial. Perhaps you have been looking for a magician to perform such a miracle on your abode. If so, read on.

The "Class Ads" department in the July *Voice* carried nine entries from people advertising housecleaning services. Since the *Voice* can sense a story when it is right under our noses, we decided to investigate this phenomenon. When the dust cleared, we discovered that although these people vary in background and style, they all uphold cleanliness as though it really is next to godliness.

"Physical work is part of living a healthier life," said Monica Schrag, who started cleaning for a living this summer. "It's a romantic idea of what our grandmothers had to do when they worked out in the field. They didn't have to jog or go on weight loss programs. Today, most people sit and are unhappy with their jobs."

Schrag, who recently graduated from City College with an A.A. in general education, had experimented with other occupations before choosing housecleaning. Growing up in Switzerland, she became a medical assistant and then worked in restaurants. "I became very depressed working with others," she recalls. "I don't like to listen to office gossip and I don't like to see the same faces every day. But I do like things clean, and I like the immediate gratification of housecleaning."

Schrag capitalizes on her Swiss heritage, which people associate with an organized, diligent, clean, honest individual. She admits she is guilty of all those traits. But sometimes even someone who likes to get rid of dirt can get in over her head, as she found when she attempted to clean a house located out in the woods. To get at the cathedral ceilings, "I had to climb up on dressers and other furniture, and I discovered larvae all around the windows and on the ceilings. They kept dropping on my head. It was a mess."

Bugs aside, she enjoys her work and plans to expand her business during the next few years. "I'm not afraid of any kind of dirt," she declares. And if Bon

Ami doesn't purify the soul like a fresh reading of Proust, Schrag also plans to polish up on philosophical insights as she enriches her pocketbook.

* * * * *

Fifteen years ago, Michael Kocina was a single parent working as a psychologist. Searching in vain for someone he could trust to clean house for him, he knew other people must be having the same problem, so he decided to go into business for himself. He started Grandma's Housecleaning Service, the first organized housecleaning service in San Francisco.

The business was a success from the start. It has grown to employ 20 people, and Kocina prides himself on the fact that his first client still relies on Grandma's sparkling touch.

Kocina takes his occupation seriously. "There is a crying need for professionals," he said, "both on the part of the person going into the home to clean and for the person on the telephone."

Kocina notes that the advent of the two-income household as the norm has been a boost for business. "People don't want to spend their leisure time cleaning." Without offering any specific examples, Kocina said that the best clients are those who call and say that they've cleaned and are ready for Grandma's to take over. The worst? These are clients whose homes appear to be untouched even after a thorough wipe-down.

In managing his company, Kocina spots needs and then tries to fill them. Grandma's has branched into several other businesses, including catering, antiques and a rental service. "We organize our clients' lives to the point where it's family," he said. "People depend on us entirely."

* * * * *

A graphic artist newly arrived from New Orleans, Lisa Warrick found it extremely difficult to land a job in San Francisco. She worked as a dispatcher for three years and then completed all the training to become a police officer before she decided that it just wasn't for her. Now, as the instigator behind a business called Clean and Fresh, Warrick does part-time housecleaning and part-time work in security, and takes classes in photography and film.

"I had a pretty sloppy room as a kid," she admits, "but when I left home, everything had to be nice and neat. It makes it easier to think. Since I was doing this for myself and getting compliments, I thought I could make other people happy and make a living."

Warrick finds a lot of variety among her clients. Her favorite client made her feel at home from the very first day. She

Photo by Tom Vachas



Monica Schrag brings her Swiss national character to bear as a housecleaner. She says she'd much rather face a home full of dirt than an office full of drones.

met the whole family, was offered food and libation, and was paid more than she had expected. At the other end of the spectrum is the mystery client with whom Warrick has only communicated in writing.

Do most people maintain a high degree of trust in a stranger who comes into their homes? "Usually, the first time you meet, people do ask for references and check them. Some people will test to see if you'll steal something. I never feel tempted though. I don't want anybody in my things and they don't want me in theirs."

* * * * *

Roh Fiesher of The Art of Cleaning demonstrated his philosophy of business by rearranging a flower so that it sat in its vase at exactly the right angle. "We approach a home on an artistic level. This allows the customers a sense of harmony and balance in their lives."

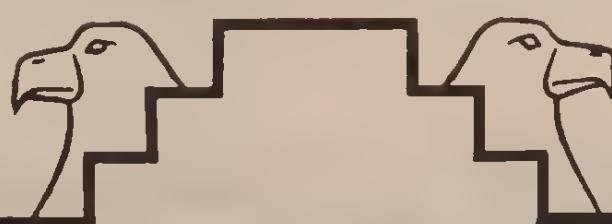
With a degree in business and a background in hotel and restaurant manage-

ment, Fiesher's housecleaning venture was a natural outgrowth. He and his partner set up their office eight years ago and still scrub up for 15 of their original clients.

"We believe that people should use their time and energy to become the best that they can in their fields," Fiesher noted, emphasizing the important role his service plays in freeing people to develop their careers and lives. He argues that Yuppie-ism hasn't changed the volume of work available.

Noe Valley is a very strong area for housecleaners, according to Fiesher. About 25 percent of his company's clientele live in the area.

So if you want your house to be spick and span, clean as a whistle, bright as a new penny, you've got a clear choice: either don the sweats and grab the toilet soap, or hire one of the sanitary engineers of the '80s. You may not feel like you're next to godliness, but your housecleaner will make you look that way. □



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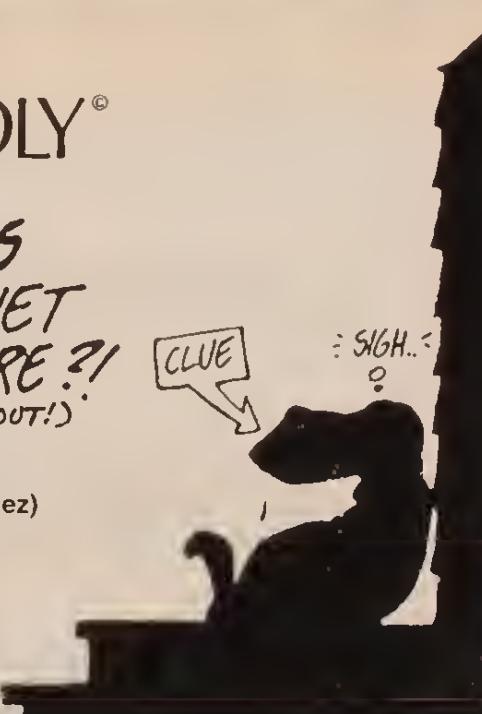
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Maria Dolores Kinney

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Parenthood is as new to Lisa and Randy Kinney as life is to baby Maria Dolores Kinney. Although they now live in the Excelsior, Lisa works at Coast Federal Savings on 24th Street, and Grandma lives right up the block on Noe. Papa Kinney justifiably sees his daughter as "really a blessing and really beautiful." The beautiful blessing checked in on April 11, 1985, weighing 7 pounds 11 ounces.



Leah Renée Komarek-Meyer



Amelia Claire Johling Fazio

Here's a nuclear family with enough names to start a chain reaction: Marie Kazan-Komarek and Kevin Meyer became the parents of Leah Renée Komarek-Meyer, who in turn became the eight-pound, four-ounce stepsister of Sean Meyer (also shown here) on April 25, 1985. In spite of all this confusion, Daddy reports that Daughter is on "a pretty good schedule" and already enjoying her natural habitat on 29th Street.

Baby Amelia Jobling Fazio looks like she's ready to follow in the footsteps of parents Marie Jobling and Tony Fazio, who between them have years of experience working in the fields of labor and organization. Amelia, nicknamed Amy, found her niche at the Fazio "local" on Fair Oaks St. on March 5, 1985. She weighed eight pounds, eight ounces.

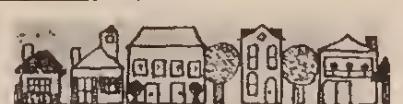
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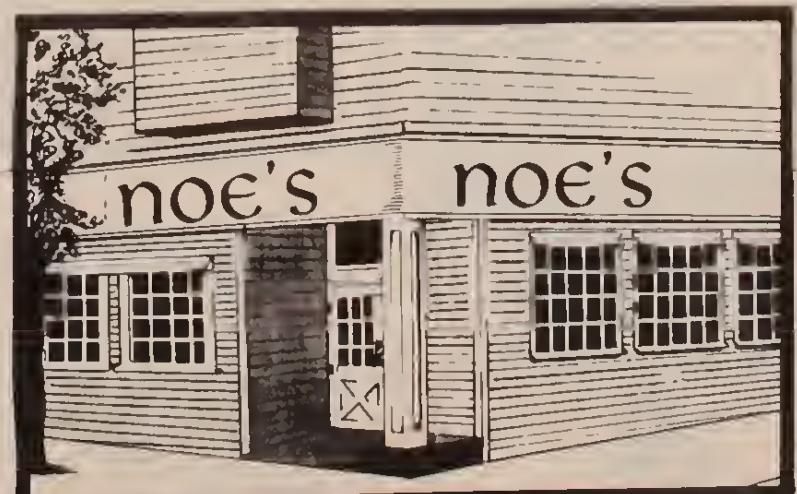
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Fiction

Sudden Death—William Kienzle
Amur Joha—Jamaica Kincaid
Skeleton Crew—Stephen King
The Diaries of Jane Sowerns—Doris Lessing
Juan—Eric Van Lustbader
Lonesome Dove—Larry McMurtry
Last Letters from Hay—Jan Morris
The Fourth Deadly Sin—Lawrence Sanders
The Old Forest and Other Stories—Peter Taylor
Murder at the FBI—Margaret Truman
The Turquoise Dragon—David Rains Wallace
Away With Them to Prison—Sara Woods

Non-Fiction

The Feast of Santa Fe: Cooking of the American Southwest—Huntley Dent
The Human Annual—Phil Donahue
"Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman"

Adventures of a Curious Character—Richard Phillips Feynman

Beyond Power: On Women, Men, and Marriages—Marilyn French

The Martial Arts—Arthur Watterson Hoppe

My Mother's Keeper—B. D. Hyman

Occasional Prose—Mary McCarthy

What Can I Do With a Major in ...? How to Choose and Use Your College Major—Lawrence Malmig

Sea of Slaughter—Farley Mowat

Finding a School For Your Child in San Francisco and Marin—Vera Obermeyer & Suzanne Warren

Seeds of Tomorrow: New Age Communities That Work—Oliver & Cris Popeno

The California Bed and Breakfast Book—Kathy Strong

Sunrise with Seamonsters: Travel and Discoveries, 1984-1984—Paul Theroux

Do-It-Yourself Video: A Beginner's Guide to Home Video—Peter Utz

The Postnatal Exercise Book: A Six-Month Fitness Program for New Mothers—Barbara Whiteford & Margie Polden

Yeager, an Autobiography—Chuck Yeager and Leo Janos

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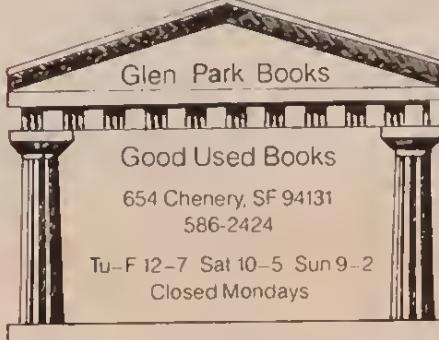
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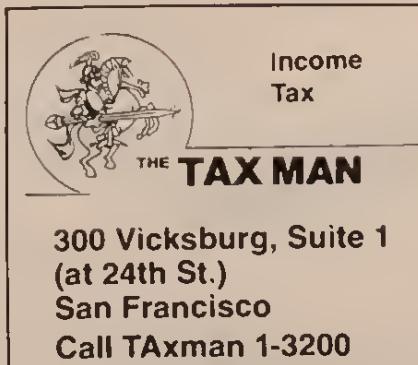
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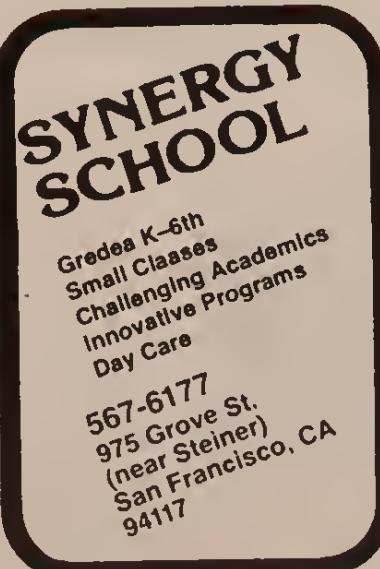
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WANTED - GARAGE in the vicinity of 26th Street and Dolores. Call Jerome 550-8346 or 641-9483.

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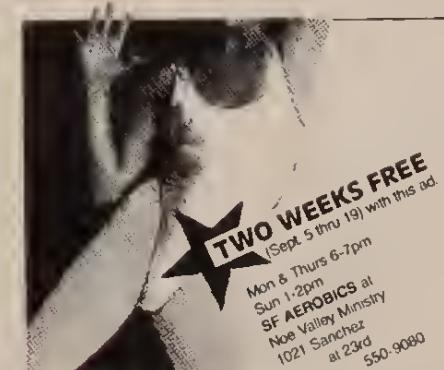
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CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 1985

SEPT. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: SUNDAY MUSIC at El Rio, featuring Afro-Cuban world beat, Brazilian and more. El Rio, 3158 Mission St. Sundays, 4-8 p.m. Call 282-3325 for details.

SEPT. 1-21: MERCHANTISE COLLECTION for the "World's Greatest Garage Sale" to be held Sept. 21 and 22 at Fort Mason Center. Sponsored by the City of Hope and Beckman Research Institute, an organization dedicated to free patient care, research and medical education. Pier 2, Fort Mason Center, 982-7935.

SEPT. 1-30: Second annual RADICAL CLEARANCE SALE of overstocked and discontinued tiles. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. All sale books \$1-\$3. 282-9246.

SEPT. 1-30: "The Landscape of Memory Poland 1981," photographs by ANNETTA GUNTER of Holocaust survivor Bernard Offen's willingness to confront the past and remember. Modern Times Bookstore, Gallery 968 Valencia St. Reception Sunday Sept. 8, 5-30 p.m. 822-9246.

SEPT. 3-23: FALL ORIENTATION AND REGISTRATION at New College of California School of Humanities. Orientation Sept. 3, 10-11:30 a.m.; registration Sept. 3, 5-11:30 a.m.; 1 p.m.; late registration Sept. 9-23. New College of California, 777 Valencia St. 626-1694.

SEPT. 3-27: SF WOMEN ARTISTS GALLERY fall rental show, offering prints, drawings, paintings and other media with which to decorate your home or office. 451 Hayes St. Reception Sept. 5, 5-8 p.m. 552-7392.

SEPT. 4, 11, 18, 24: INFANT TODDLER LAP-SIT for infants to age 3. Songs, stories and finger games. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 7 p.m. 285-2788.

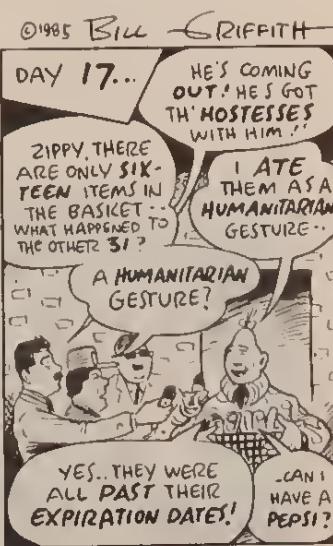
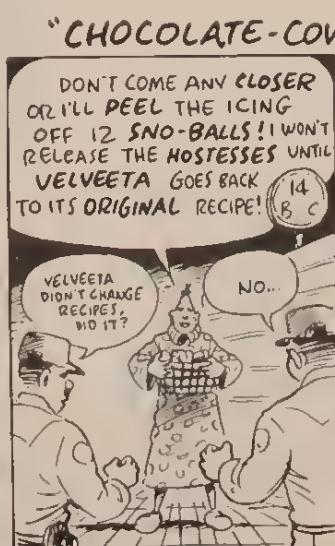
SEPT. 5: MONA LISA SALOY promises to razzle-dazzle you with her poetry. Old Wives Tales, 1009 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 821-4675.

SEPT. 5-19: Two weeks free SF AEROBICS with Liz Conle. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Mon. & Thurs. 6-7 p.m., Sun. 1-2 p.m. 550-9080.

SEPT. 5-29: PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT "The Mall," a national juried exhibition focusing on the shopping mall and its effect on American life. Eye Gallery, 758 Valencia St. Reception Sept. 6, 7-10 p.m. 431-6911.

SEPT. 6: LILLIAN RUBIN discusses her latest book, *Just Friends: The Role of Friendship in Our Lives*. Rubin has also written books on love relationships and working class families. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 8 p.m. 282-9246.

ZIPPY



CHOCOLATE-COVERED TERRORISM

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The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send Calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding month of issue to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. Please note our next issue will come out Oct. 1, the deadline for calendar items is Sept. 15.

SEPT. 6: First annual BAY-TO-BREAKFAST WALK for those over 60, in celebration of healthy aging. The 1.5-mile walk includes breakfast, raffle prizes, live entertainment, a compact "walk log," and free entry to the San Francisco Urban Fair, beginning Sept. 6. Walk starts at Crissy Field, winds along the Marina Green, and ends at Fort Mason. 10 a.m. 626-1033.

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